system, Small and Cottage industries including many tiny units of production in the country would be adversely affected and endanger their existence; and

(b) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government to save small scale industries and maintain their profitability?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) India's membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), amendments to the Patents Act, 1970 and implementation of the Value Added Tax (VAT) system are not likely to affect the interests of small and cottage industries adversely. In respect of imports, the Government has put in place appropriate trade-defence mechanisms, such as import licensing, safeguards against surge in imports and anti-dumping measures, to provide protection to the domestic industries, including small and cottage industries. In addition, steps have been taken by the Government to prepare the small scale industries (SSI) sector to meet the challenges of liberalization/globalization which, *inter-alia,* include assistance for technology/upgradation, common infrastructure development and marketing through schemes of cluster development, facilitating availability of institutional credit, assistance for adoption of modern management practices, use of information technology, etc.

SSIs in Tamil Nadu

4631. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special package for Tamil Nadu has been provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan to strengthen Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development of small scale industries is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments/ Administrations. The Central Government, however, supports and

supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments/Administrations through various scheme/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc. These are implemented across the country, including the State of Tamil Nadu.

Survey of NSSO

4632. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the recently released survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation on "Household Consumer Expenditure and Employment Unemployment Situation" highlighting *inter-alia* that three out of every 1000 rural households and one urban household per thousand do not get enough to eat in any month of the year; and

(b) if so, the details of major conclusions/observations contained in the survey and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per the recently released reports of NSSO Survey on "Household Consumer Expenditure and Employment Unemployment" based on NSS 59th round conducted during January-December 2003; at the all-India level the proportion of chronically hungry households (not getting enough to eat even in any month of the year) was 3 per 1000 for rural areas and 1 per 1000 for urban areas.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is implementing two schemes *viz.* (i) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and (ii) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) with a focus on the poor and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families:—

(i) Targeted Public Disttribution System (TPDS)

Department of Food and Public Distribution introduced the TPDS with effect from June 1997 with focus on the poor as a commitment of the Government to ensure food security for all, create a hunger free India and reform and improve the Public Distribution System (PDS) in order to serve the poorest of the poor in the country.